

REMARKS

Claims 1-61 were pending. By the present amendment, claims 26, 31, and 34 are canceled, and claims 1, 12, 32-33, 35-40, 42-44, 46-47, 49-51, 55, and 58-61 are amended. Claims 62-65 are added. As a result, claims 1-25, 27-30, 32-33, and 35-65 are pending (62 claims total, 6 independent claims). The claim amendments and new claims find support in the original claims, among other places. No new matter is added by this paper.

Claim amendments

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate claims 31 and 34, as well as allowable claims 35-39 in the alternative. The word "including" in claim 1 is open-ended.

Claim 12 is amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 26.

Claims 32-33, 35-40, 42-44, 46-47, and 49-51 are amended to correct their respective claim dependencies, and as to claims 40 and 42, for matters of form.

Claims 55 and 58-61, withdrawn from consideration, are amended to depend from allowable claim 1, so that they may be rejoined.

New claims 62-65 are re-presentations of claims 5, 11, 44, and 46 in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 31, 34, 40-43, and 47-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,408,202 to Lima et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,355,087 to Chapelon et al.

Claims 2, 12-25, 27-30, 33, and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lima in view of Chapelon and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,379,767 to Derby et al.

Claims 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lima in view of Chapelon and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,054,858 to Dumoulin.

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lima in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,792,055 to McKinnon.

Applicants ask the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections. Independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include respective allowable dependent claims. As a result, claims 1 and 12 are allowable. All other rejected claims depend ultimately from claim 1 or claim 12 and are also allowable.

Rejoinder of claims 55-61

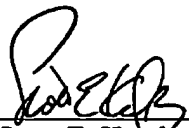
Claims 55-61 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 1. As a result, they should be rejoined. See M.P.E.P. § 821.04 ("withdrawn process claims which depend from... the allowable product claim will be rejoined").

Conclusion

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact their agent, Scott Kamholz, at 617-832-1176 (direct line) or the general telephone number given below, to discuss any matters relating to this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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